

2026 South County Area Transportation Board (SCATBd) State Legislative Priorities

The South County Area Transportation Board (SCATBd) is a collaboration of local elected officials and stakeholders including: 16 cities in South King and North Pierce Counties; King County; Puget Sound Regional Council; the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma; Pierce Transit and Sound Transit; 826,000 people and over 351,000 jobs; and the 5th, 11th, 25th, 27th, 30th, 31st, 33rd, 34th, and 47th Legislative Districts.

The South County area is heavily reliant on transportation investments to connect roads and transit in South King County and North Pierce County, the area hosts:

- a) an airport with record breaking travel demand,
- b) major industrial hubs,
- c) one of the largest and growing warehousing and distribution centers in the United States.

Moreover, as you know, South King County has a high population of historically underrepresented BIPOC residents and residents earning low-incomes, and we urge the Legislature to invest in the areas listed below.

South County area projects are critical to meeting the region's and the state's transportation needs:

- The South County area's transportation needs have been historically under-served and under-funded. The area hosts essential transportation corridors, is a critical part of the state's economy, and provides access to jobs and affordable housing in one of the fastest-growing regions in the state.
- Ensure Move Ahead Washington package is fully funded.
- Preserve funding to ensure our critical local WSDOT projects get completed.

We ask that the Legislature prioritize these key values outlined by SCATBd members:

- Prioritize maintenance of the state highway system and bridges.
- Provide cities and counties better financing tools to adequately address aged infrastructure and local roadways.
- Support Vision Zero programs and projects to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists – especially as data shows crashes and fatalities are increasing.
- Develop an equitable road usage charge (RUC) system to generate necessary revenue to eventually replace the gas tax, fund the state's long-term transportation needs, including multimodal connections and introduce revenue flexibility
- Invest in transit-related priorities including first mile/last mile improvements, parking, and alternative services such as Metro Flex, especially in our smaller, rural communities.

- Increase communication with cities and counties in regard to transferring the state highway system.
- Build on the historic transit investments included in Move Ahead Washington and funded through the “Climate Commitment Act.” South King County is highly transit-dependent and experienced significant ridership even through the COVID- 19 pandemic.

Siting of a second regional airport is critical:

- Legislators should act on a second regional airport, for economic development, to relieve congestion around SEA Airport, and to improve air quality, reduce noise, and lessen traffic congestion for surrounding residents.
- Promote collaboration with local jurisdictions on site selection.

Continue to prioritize investments that reduce impacts of climate change:

- Support the infrastructure and development of zero emissions heavy vehicles including transit and trucks.
- Support efforts by Northwest Seaport Alliance to implement the Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy.
- Continue to support local jurisdictions and transit agencies in implementing all zero emission options.
- Support carbon sequestration to help us get to net zero emissions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues. We appreciate your help and hard work in addressing transportation needs in Washington State.

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On behalf of the 17 member jurisdictions of the South County Area Board
Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent,
Maple Valley, Milton, Normandy Park, Pacific, Renton, SeaTac, Tukwila, and King County
For more information, please see [our website](#).